MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

26 JUNE 1986

Israel

President Hayim Herzog confirmed his decision to pardon Shin Bet chief Avraham Shalom in a statement broadcast by Jerusalem television, announcing that Shalom and three of his assistants are receiving a full pardon which will absolve them of any wrongdoing they may have committed in connection with the hijacked bus affair. The president said he issued the pardon in order to end the "witch-hunt" around the affair and to prevent further damage to the Shin Bet, which does "wonderful" work in preventing terrorism and which uncovered some 320 terrorist squads last year. As for the legal justification, Herzog stressed that his decision was based on rulings by prominent Israeli jurists to the effect that the president may pardon criminals before they have been convicted or brought to trial. Nevertheless, he acknowledged that the decision was "not a simple one," adding that he would not like to say that opponents of his ruling are completely wrong.

The Cabinet secretary earlier told IDF radio that Prime Minister Shim'on Peres has accepted Shalom's resignation, though he disclosed that the three other pardoned Shin Bet members are not resigning. He also noted that Peres intends to establish a special committee to decide on "procedures and working methods" for the Shin Bet on the basis of past lessons.

Likud ministers and MK's are pleased with the settlement of the Shin Bet affair, Jerusalem radio noted, but most Alignment MK's are critical of the settlement, believing that it will enable Yitzhaq Shamir to become prime minister without having been interrogated on his role in the affair. In remarks reported by IDF radio, Shamir welcomed the outcome as the only legal way to avoid an investigation that could have exposed security secrets, thereby causing great damage. Peres lauded Herzog's "difficult and brave decision" in remarks cited by the radio, but refused to comment further. In the Knesset, three small leftist parties tabled motions of no confidence in the government in connection with the affair, according to Jerusalem radio.

Syria

Reporting on the latest Syrian-Soviet arms deal, the UAE daily *AL-ITTIHAD said the Soviet Union is selling weapons valued* at around $2 billion to Syria, which will pay for them through long-term loans at reduced interest rates. The paper added that Syria will receive 60 MiG 29 aircraft, 12 platforms for launching SS-23 missiles, and additional SAM systems.

Syria-Iraq

"Well-informed Arab sources" told the UAE paper *AL-KHALIJ* that efforts to effect an Iraqi-Syrian reconciliation have not reached a deadlock, and revealed that moves are being "prepared quietly," including those leading to the resumption of the pumping of Iraqi oil through Syria and agreement on a preliminary security accord forbidding opposition groups from using the territory of one country to act against the other. In contrast, Iraqi First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yasin Ramadan downplayed Syria's importance to Iraq in an interview with Kuwait's *AL-SIYASAH* cited by KUNA, stressing that the key to the end of the Gulf war no longer lies with Syria and that the Syrian oil pipeline has lost its importance because of Iraq's new pipeline projects in Turkey and Saudi Arabia.

Iran

Montazeri Speech — Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri discussed the role of newspapers in a speech to press officials reported by Tehran radio, stating that newspapers should be more broad-minded and publish a greater variety of views. He also stressed the need to encourage Iranian emigres to return home, criticizing those newspapers which "spoiled everything" by describing the emigres as "traitors and criminals" at a time when official moves were under way to encourage exiles to return.

Relations With France — The French Embassy in Cairo issued a statement denying recent press reports that France intends to supply Iran with military equipment, Cairo radio disclosed. The statement insisted that the normalization of bilateral relations will "only involve" the resumption of private trade. Meanwhile, an Iranian economic delegation arrived in France to discuss the outstanding financial disputes between the two countries, IRNA reported.

Egypt-USSR

Egyptian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Butrus Ghali met with several senior USSR Foreign Ministry officials in Moscow, MENA reported, noting that after the session Ghali asserted that "friendship and consultations" between the two countries will serve the cause of peace, stability, and progress.

Kuwait

An unknown organization, the "United Arab Revolution," claimed responsibility for last week's explosions at oil facilities in Kuwait's Al-Ahmadi port, according to Radio Monte Carlo. In a telephone contact with a news agency in Amman, the group stressed its commitment to achieving Arab unity and to "boycotting" the United States and its Arab allies.

Sudan

The Air Force fired at four unidentified planes 20 June as they were flying over the Al-Damazin area south of Khartoum, including the strategic Al-Rasayris Dam, according to a Khartoum press report cited by SUNA.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

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USSR's Korniyenko Departs Kabul 25 Jun

LD260636 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 25 Jun 86

[Text] The delegation of the CPSU Central Committee, headed by Comrade Korniyenko, member of the CPSU Central Committee and first deputy chief of the CPSU Central Committee International Relations Department, who had come to Kabul at the invitation of the PDPA Central Committee, left for its country today.

Comrades Saleh Muhammad Ziray and Nur Ahmad Nur, members of the Politburo and secretaries of the PDPA Central Committee; Mahmud Barialay, candidate member of the Politburo and secretary of the PDPA Central Committee; and Shah Muhammad Dost, minister of foreign affairs, saw the delegation off at Kabul International Airport.

British MP Describes Visit, Talk With Najibullah

PM241441 London MORNING STAR in English 24 Jun 86 p 7

[Article by Member of UK Parliament Harry Cohen: "Dr Najib — Defending Afghanistan's Revolution"]

[Text] On the recent fact finding visit to Afghanistan I did not realise that I would be the first western parliamentarian to meet the country's new leader Doctor Najib.

During our two-hour discussion I raised the issues of concern to British Socialists about Afghanistan, to which he replied fully.

It was pointed out that all we hear in the West is about the Soviet "occupation" of his country. He was dismissive of this false interpretation, stressing the historical links of friendship between the two countries. He said that after the revolution in 1978 Afghanistan had requested military help from the Soviet Union to protect the country from outside interference.

The US supplying of arms to the counter-revolutionaries has since increased to a level virtually equalling Afghanistan's national budget.

The basis of a settlement is at present being discussed with the United Nations mediator, Diego Cordovez, with the full cooperation of the Afghaninstan government. But Dr Najib stressed that withdrawal of Soviet troops could only come about with international guarantees of non-interference.

I voiced my concern for the danger of war with Pakistan, within whose borders lie the military bases for the counter-revolutionaries. Dr. Najib acknowledged that this situation raises tension between the two countries.

"We need to shield the borders of our country not seal them, as traditionally these are free tribal areas which even the British during past occupations, recognised," he said. "Pakistan can't ignore this reality and neither can we."

Afghanistan offered direct talks with Pakistan to resolve the refugee problem but was turned down. It is now being negotiated via the United Nations mediator.

A massive literacy programme is already underway in Afghanistan, involving 20,000 courses from which one-and-a-half million people have graduated to date.

The problems of representation for a Socialist government in the transition from feudalism are complex. Afghanistan, however, has a long history of democratic regional and tribal convocations known as Jirgas which are continuing under the present political system.

I visited a large State collective farm which employes 6,500 workers and has succeeded in turning a dust bowl into a productive area and lowered the temperature of the desert by 10 degrees.

This is part of a land reform programm which has abolished the old system of peasants in debt to usurers and state land tax on peasants.

The new trade unions are very active in both industrial and agricultural projects achieving a 240 per cent rise in average earnings over the last four years and improved working conditions which include cheap housing, free health care and job security.

Management have no right to penalise any worker without the consent of the trade union. The unions also pay a vital role in representing workers' interests in the formulation of goverment plans.

There are estimated to be over 40,000 orphans in Afghanistan and for the first time substantial efforts are being made by the government to safeguard their welfare.

I visited an orphanage where over 2,000 youngsters are cared for. The Soviet assistance in this project included building work, training teachers and carers and providing toys, sewing machines and other equipment and materials.

Soviet aid is not all military. Vitually no one else has helped Afghanistan make any social progress, a factor totally lacking in Western analyses.

Indeed, given the security situation since the revolution these have been considerable achievements in a short space of time.

I also saw the poppy fields which produce many drugs. The authorities do take action against illegal drug trafficking but in desperately poor areas the peasants depend for their livelihood on this crop.

An alternative income must be provided for them if widespread starvation is to be avoided. I think there is a good argument for the Western world to set up a programme of aid to finance other forms of agriculture in these areas.

It is time to end the undiluted hostility to Afghanistan.

We have international responsibilities as Socialists to help Afghanistan emerge from a feudal to a modern society. There are links to be made at every level and I am pleased to have been part of that process.

Former Rebel Leader Holds Press Conference
LD232154 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 23 Jun 86

[Excerpts] Through spreading hostile and poisonous propaganda and the publication of fabricated articles, the counterrevolution wants to create a spirit of hostility and indignation against the DRA and, by (?distorting) verses from the Koran and the sayings of the prophet Muhammad, which have been interpreted and explained in the interests of the counterrevolutionary bands, attempts to propagate the spirit of fratricide among the people.

This was stated at a press conference held by the BIA at the Ariana Hotel and attended by foreign and domestic journalists. It was also attended by Sayyed Nur Muhammad Shah, previously in charge of the administration department of the Harakat-e Enqelab-e Eslami band in Tehran and editor in chief of the *RAH-E HAQ* journal and magazine, a publicity organ of *HARAKAT-E ENQELAB-E ESLAMI* in Tehran, who has recently joined our revolutionary state.

In reply to a question by a journalist, Sayyed Muhammad Shah said that the counterrevolutionary bands, through fabricated unsubstantiated publications and propaganda, want to term the DRA Government as so-called infidel, create social disorder among the people, and prevent youths from going to schools, madrasas, and military service.

By means of hostile propaganda, the counterrevolutionary bands, in their own thinking, reflect the successes of the bands against the DRA Armed Forces and distort the fraternal assistance of the Soviet Union to the people of Afghanistan.

He also said that the activities and groundless propaganda are being directed by the reactionary authorities of Pakistan and Iran and the espionage organizations of imperialism, headed by the United States.

In answer to another question he said that a large number of offices of the counterrevolutionary bands exist in Tehran, Mashhad, Esfahan, Shiraz, Zahedan, Zabol, Ahwaz, and Qom. The offices of Gulbuddin, Burhanuddin, and Muhammad Nabi are also active in these cities.

The offices of the Eslami band are directly led and financed in all areas by the government of Iran. The existence of these offices on the soil of Iran has been faced with the dissatisfaction and disagreement of the majority of the people of Iran. The existence of band members, who, in the name of refugees, are living in Iran has created headaches and disquiet for the people of Iran.

Replying to a question, he stated that the members of the bands, on the instruction of their leaders, engage in smuggling narcotics such as heroin, cocaine, opium, hashish, and narcotic tables from Pakistan to Iran which constitutes the main reason for the dissatisfaction of the people of Iran. Also, the perpetration of inadmissible actions such as theft, robbery and quarrels between the band members has created concern for the people of Iran.

Sayyed Muhammad Shah presented outstanding examples to the journalists of the miserable condition of the Afghan fugitives in Iran and Pakistan, who endure poverty, disease, pressure, corruption, and crimes. He said that the groups linked to the bands are engaged in the trade of weapons and ammunition, promoting corruption and prostitution, terror and murder and the smuggling of narcotics.

A number of other deceived groups, who have left the homeland as a result of the enemy propaganda and are living in the burning deserts of Parachinar, Atak, and other parts of Pakistan, are daily faced with death and are suffering the pressure of the bands and their masters under the rays of the (?burning) sun.

The Afghan fugitives who, as a result of the hostile propaganda of the counterrevolution, have left the bosom of the homeland and are living in misery and poverty in Iran and Pakistan, have now realized the value of the homeland and their hearts are aching for the homeland and a tranquil peaceful life. But the groundless propaganda of the Governments of Iran and Pakistan and their authorities' preventative measures block the way of our compatriots' return to their homeland.

Gandhi Contacts Ziaul Haq on Helicopter Accident

BK251404 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 25 Jun 86

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, in a message to the Pakistan president, General Ziaul Haq, conveyed his good wishes for his continued good health.

Mr Rajiv Gandhi said he was greatly relieved to learn that General Ziaul Haq escaped unhurt when his helicopter had to make a crash landing on Sunday [22 June].

Gandhi, Ramphal Discuss South Africa Situation

BK251625 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 25 Jun 86

[Text] The Commonwealth secretary general, Dr Ramphal, called on the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, in New Delhi today. They are understood to have discussed the latest situation in South Africa.

Dr Ramphal apprised Mr Gandhi of the reprot of the Commonwealth eminent persons group which had visited South Africa recently.

Spokesman Issues Statement on Violence in Sri Lanka

BK251505 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1432 GMT 25 Jun 86

[Text] Statement made by official spokesman on June 25, 1986: We have noted with deep concern and regret the recent incidents of violence and terrorism in Sri Lanka which have resulted in the deaths of several innocent civilians — men, women, and children.

We condemn such acts of violence and terrorism perpetrated on the innocent civilians. We urge all concerned that at the present moment when efforts are being made for a negotiated political solution to the ethnic issue in Sri Lanka, there is an imperative need to eschew all acts of violence and exercise the maximum restraint. Failure to do so could cause a regrettable setback to the quest for a mutually peaceful and negotiated settlement to the ethnic issue.

Continuing Reportage on Situation in Punjab State

Barnala, Home Minister Call For Calm

BK251630 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 25 Jun 86

[Text] The Punjab chief minister, Mr Barnala, has sought the people's cooperation in restoring normalcy in the state. He told newsmen in Batala that bundhs [strikes] complicate matters by creating tension. Mr Barnala appealed to the people not to respond to any such call.

Earlier, Mr Barnala met various delegations in the affected areas of Gurdaspur and assured them of all possible help.

The home minister, Mr Buta Singh, assured the people who have come to Delhi from terrorist-affected areas in Punjab that a new action plan to curb extremist activity is being implemented. He said paramilitary forces have been strengthened in the affected areas to ensure safety of life and property of the people living there.

Mr Buta Singh gave his assurance when several families who have come to Delhi from affected areas called on him in New Delhi today. They appealed to the home minister to take immediate measures to restore peace and normalcy in Punjab in order to remove the sense of insecurity in the minds of the people.

The Chandigarh unit of the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] has urged the center not to transfer Chandigarh to Punjab. Talking to newsmen in Chandigarh today, the convenor of the party, Mr Raj Kumar Mahajan, said in view of the changed situation and deteriorating law and order in Punjab the transfer will only create more problems. Expressing serious concern at the continued killings of innocent people by terrorists, he appealed to the Center to deploy the Army in the border districts of the state.

'Terrorists' Planned To Assassinate Barnala

BK251257 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 25 Jun 86

[Text] In Punjab, curfew was relaxed in Amritsar city for the first time since it was imposed on Saturday. The relaxation was ordered for 2 hours from 1300. According to official sources, the situation remained under control. In a village near Kapurthala, one person was injured when some unidentified gunmen fired at him while he was sleeping in his house late last night. The injured has been identified as Mr Sohan Singh, general secretary of the Kapurthala District Congress-I.

The director general of police, Mr Ribeiro, briefing newsmen in Batala today, said the three terrorists killed in an encounter yesterday planned to make an attempt on the life of the Punjab chief minister. According to PTI, he said that Makhan Singh gave the statement. Mr Ribeiro also announced promotion of all the 40 police and other officers who helped in killing the terrorists. He said 12 police personnel charged with helping the terrorists have been dismissed.

26 Jun Clashes Detailed

BK260319 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 26 Jun 86

[Text] In Punjab, one BSF [Border Security Force] jawan [soldier] was killed and another injured in an encounter with some terrorists in village (Sitherke) near Dera Baba Nanak in Gurdaspur District early this morning.

A BSF party on definite information raided the premises where some terrorists were hiding. In the exchange of fire, a son and daughter of the owner of the premises were also killed and his wife injured. The terrorists, however, managed to escape under the cover of darkness. The police and paramilitary forces

deployed in the area have been alerted. A massive hunt for the terrorists has been launched.

Meanwhile, about 200 persons have so far been arrested in Amritsar for defying curfew orders. The state government has declared the offenses like defiance of prohibitory orders and sacrilegious acts and intimidation as non-bailable. This declaration will remain in force for 1 year.

Meanwhile, the schools which were scheduled to reopen on the 7th of next month after the summer vacation will remain closed till the 14th.

Congress-I, Mizo Front Agree on Coalition Plan

BK251209 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GTM 25 Jun 86

[Text] An agreement has been reached between the Congress-I and the Mizo National Front [MNF] under which the MNF leader, Mr Laldenga, will head a coalition government of the two parties in Mizoram.

The Mizoram chief minister, Mr Thanhawla, told All India Radio correspondent, Mohan Singh, that the agreement was signed in New Delhi today by the Congress-I vice president, Mr Arjun Singh, and Mr Laldenga, in his presence. Mr Thanhawla said this is an interim arrangement pending elections.

Later, a delegation led by Mr Thanhawla met Mr Rajiv Gandhi. The delegation consisted of Mizo ministers and Congress-I leaders, including Mr Arjun Singh.

As already reported, an accord between the union government and the MNF is expected soon for putting an end to the 20-year old insurgency in Mizoram.

Mizo Chief Tells Rebels To Disarm

BK251619 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 25 Jun 86

[Excerpts] The Congress-I and the Mizo National Front [MNF] have agreed that the MNF leader, Mr Laldenga, will head a coalition government of the two parties in Mizoram. The agreement was signed in New Delhi today by the Congress-I vice president, Mr Arjun Singh, and Mr Laldenga.

In a statement, Mr Laldenga appealed to all members of the MNF to lay down their arms as soon as the agreement is signed with the union government [on ending the insurgency in the state]. He said the Mizo people are proud of their heritage and the MNF has now resolved all the problems within the framework of the Constitution.

The MNF has irrevocably committed itself to joining the mainstream of Indian polity in total adherence to the Constitution and a strong and united India. Mr Laldenga said the discussions which the MNF has been having with the government proved the remarkable resilience of the Indian Constitution in offering a political environment for different ethnic groups to fulfill their legitimate aspirations. He said the disturbed conditions of the past 2 decades have caused a serious setback to the progress and prosperity of the people of Mizoram. The agreement with the government which is to be signed will enable the MNF members to return to normal life as proud citizens of India.

He recalled with gratitude that the talks had started at the initiative of Mrs Indira Gandhi. These have culminated in complete mutual understanding. He thanked Mr Rajiv Gandhi and said his understanding, patience, and statesmanship have made it possible to establish peace and harmony amongst the people of Mizoram.

Delhi Commentator Reviews Relations With Britain

BK251415 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 25 Jun 86

[S. Vishwam commentary]

[Text] Despite the historic past, India and Britain have managed to sustain warm, cordial, and friendly relations since Indian independence. Their differences on certain global, political, and economic issues have persisted over the years, but this has not colored adversely their bilateral relations. However, in the last few years some minor and major differences and irritants have surfaced even in their bilateral ties. The two countries had been attempting to resolve these against the background of their friendly cooperation of the last 4 decades. Some of the issues over which perceptions vary figured in the talks between the external affairs minister, Mr P. Shiv Shanker, and the British foreign secretary, Sir Geoffrey Howe, during the last 2 days. Mr Shiv Shanker broke journey in London on his way back home from Ireland where he participated in a ceremony to observe the anniversary of the explosion of the Air India plane *Kanishka* in which 329 passengers were killed.

The two ministers exchanged views on four issues of common concern. The external affairs minister conveyed India's concern over the involvement of a British security firm in commando operations against Tamil minorities in Sri Lanka. The concern was genuine in view of the fact that some British mercenaries had also been recruited by the Sri Lankan Government to train its security forces for the offences against the Tamil militant groups. The British took the position that, although the same security firm was employed by them for providing security to their missions in some countries, the British Government had no direct association with it.

A more important issue taken up by Mr Shiv Shanker with Sir Geoffrey related to the activities of Sikh extremists in Britain. It has been brought to the notice of the British Government long ago that because of the laxity in British approach, these extremists had been able to carry on activities aimed at destabilizing India. The issue had figured in high-level talks in New Delhi during Sir Geoffrey's official visit to India some months ago. India has repeatedly suggested that the two countries should conclude an extradition treaty so that many of the Sikhs who are wanted in India for offences against the state could be extradited. Britain has been pleading difficulties in respect of a separate

treaty with India while there were other recourses open to India to achieve the same objective.

During Mr Rajiv Gandhi's visit to Britain in October in 1985, he and Mrs Margaret Thatcher had agreed to examine the feasibility of such a treaty. Mrs Thatcher had offered to extend the Suppression of Terrorism Act to India. Britain had suggested that in addition to the extension of this act, it would also make some amendments to the Commonwealth Fugitive Offenders Act. However, India has maintained that such modifications to existing legislations would not meet the requirements of getting wanted extremists to stand trial at home. This is why it has been insisting on a separate treaty of extradition. Under the existing British laws, it has not been found easy to deport those wanted for trial in India unless they are shown to have violated the local laws.

During Sir Geoffrey's visit the two countries agreed to set up a ministrial panel of the two countries to examine the issue further. India felt that, instead of a ministrial-level panel, it would be better if officials and experts of the two countries could first discuss the overall framework of extremists problem so that British reservations over the treaty could be removed.

India has also pointed out to Britain that double standards were sought to be applied in the matter of treatment of terrorists. Alleged Libyan terrorists were deported, while Sikh extremists wanted in India were not being deported. Mr Shiv Shanker and Sir Geoffrey are reported to have agreed that the entire issue may now be examined by experts.

The third issue related to the posting of British drug officers in India to monitor the operations of narcotic criminals who had been active of late in using India as a conduit for drug traffic and smuggling. After initial hesitation, Britain is now reported to have agreed to the Indian request for the sharing of intelligence gathered by the drug officers.

The two ministers also discussed the crucial and controversial issue of the enforcement of comprehensive and mandatory sanctions against South Africa with a view to compelling it to abandon its apartheid policy.

Mr Shiv Shanker conveyed to his counterpart Mr Rajiv Gandhi's strong view that Britain should go along with the rest of the Commonwealth on this issue if it does not want to be isolated in the Commonwealth.

PAKISTAN

Protest Lodged With DRA Envoy Over Border Shelling

BK251728 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 25 Jun 86

[Text] Afghan Armed Forces fired six rounds of artillery on Monday [23 June] last at 0750 which landed in the Domandi area, 20 miles northeast of Chaman. As a result, one man was killed and one girl wounded.

The Afghan charge d'affaires was summoned to the Foreign Office this morning and a strong protest was lodged with him over the unprovoked attack.

President Assures Trial of Diplomats' Assailants

BK221630 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 22 Jun 86

[Text] The Pakistan president, General Ziaul Haq, has said the assailants of the Indian diplomats at Gurdwara Dera Saheb in Lahore recently will be tried and punished if convicted. He gave this assurance to the deputy leader of the Congress-I Mr N.K.P. Salve, who called on him at Murree.

Mr Salve conveyed to President Zia messages from the prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, and the minister for external affairs, Mr Shiv Shanker. General Zia also said that full vigilance will be exercised to prevent recurrence of such ugly incident.

Soviet, Afghan Forces To Attack Panjsher Valley

BK251534 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 25 Jun 86

[Text] According to reports, Soviet-Kabul forces in Afghanistan are preparing to launch another attack on the Panjsher Valley.

The mujahidin control strategic positions in the valley and have foiled several Soviet-backed attacks during the last few years.

The reports said that the Soviet-Kabul forces, including tanks, artillery, and armored vehicles, have left a base in Kabul for the Panjsher Valley.

Another report said that the mujahidin last week shot down a military aircraft near Kabul.

They also attacked a military convoy in northern Afghanistan and inflicted heavy damage on the Soviet-Kabul forces.

SRI LANKA

Jayewardene Reportedly To Postpone USSR Visit

BK260602 Hong Kong AFP in English 0550 GMT 26 Jun 86

[Text] Colombo, June 26 (AFP) — An official visit to the Soviet Union by President Junius Jayewardene, scheduled to start next week, has been postponed until September, the *SUN* newspaper reported here Thursday.

There was no immediate official confirmation of the postponement.

But well informed sources said that Mr. Jayewardene, who was to have left here June 29 on a 12-day visit had been told that Soviet leader Mikhal Gorbachev would not be available during that time.

The postponement is to make it possible for Mr Jayewardene to meet with Mr. Gorbachev, the source said.

Indian Envoy Comments on New Ethnic Proposals

BK251158 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 25 Jun 86

[Text] The Government of India holds that the latest proposals put forward by the Sri Lankan authorities to end the ethnic crisis should be carefully considered by the Sri Lankan Tamils.

Indian High Commissioner J.N. Dixit said this in a statement after he conferred with President J.R. Jayewardene to convey a message from Indian Prime Minister Mr Rajiv Gandhi on the latest proposals forwarded by the Sri Lankan Government. He said that the Indian Government feels that the latest proposals were practically (?made) for a compromise. He also said that they had transmitted them to Sri Lankan Tamils.

He said that the Indian Government was hopeful that there would be no violence while the process of negotiation was on.

The political parties conference called by President Jayewardene was scheduled to begin at 1600 this afternoon.

Conference on Ethnic Issue Convened

BK251345 Colombo Domestic Service in English 1245 GMT 25 Jun 86

[Text] The political parties conference on the ethnic issue was convened at the conference room of the Cabinet office this afternoon.

Representatives from eight parties participated in it. They were the Democratic Workers' Congress, the All Ceylon Tamil Congress, the United National Party, the Nava Sama Samaja Party, the Communist Party of Sri Lanka, the Sri Lanka Mahajana Party, the Ceylon Workers' Congress, and the Lanka Sama Samaja Party.

President J.R. Jayewardene, who presided over the conference, told delegates that their suggestions should be presented to the secretary general of the conference by [date indistinct] July.

The president explained to the participants the government's [words indistinct] of the conference. It is [words indistinct] devolution of powers and authorities of the provincial councils and matters regarding [words indistinct].

The next session of the conference will begin at 1000 on the 15th of next month at the BMICH [Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall] in Colombo.

Details on Proposals Presented

BK251600 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 25 Jun 86

[Text] The Sri Lankan president today presented details of his government's proposals for the creation of elected councils in each of its 9 provinces and devolution of powers at the conference of political parties in Colombo.

A draft bill for constitutional amendment is to be placed before the conference when it resumes its sitting on the 15th of next month.

The proposals include appointment of governors in each province by the president, who may appoint chief ministers enjoying majority support of the elected provincial councils.

Every council will have powers devolved on it by an act of Parliament. Such powers will not be revoked or altered in any manner except by another act of Parliament passed by two-thirds majority after consultations with the concerned provincial councils.

Our Colombo correspondent, Plaban Majumder, reports that, outlining the proposals, Mr Jayewardene said this marks the definite phase in the achievement of a political solution.

The conference was attended by eight political parties of Sri Lanka. The three parties which did not attend the conference were Sri Lankan Freedom Party [of Mrs Bandaranaike], Tamil United Liberation Front, and Mahajana Eksath Peramuna.

Montazeri Speaks on Press Freedom, Nationals Abroad

NC260826 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 26 Jun 86

[Text] Speaking at a meeting with directors and officials of large newspapers, Grand Ayatollah Montazeri pointed out that the growth and stature of each nation depends on its ideology, morals, and culture.

He stated: You, the writers, are the ones who can work for the consolidation of ideas and for the people's moral and cultural growth. You can play a role in society as devout and, at the same time, brave Muslims.

Referring to the false polarization created in our country following the victory of the Islamic revolution, which unfortunately has misled many, he told those present: The brothers should try to be the line of attack of both the nation and of the government — a correct line that conforms with Islam and with the sayings of God and His Messenger. The imam is now the leader of the revolution and an example of this.

You should always suggest the correct Islamic line to the nation and to government officials. Be the line of attack and not the eulogizer of stereotypes and flatterers of things that are contrary to our ideas just because someone higher up has espoused them. Let us be neither detractors and revenge-seekers nor supporters of a government; let us neither say that this government has worked miracles nor beat it over the head as if seeking revenge. Both are wrong. Always reflect the correct and just line in a good way and with clear and friendly words. Never be a detractor or a flatterer. This is another [words indistinct].

Grand Ayatollah Montazeri also said: The same should apply to the Majlis. The press should behave in a like way. The purpose should be to reform. If this is the purpose, then the other side will like it and the people will read both views and judge for themselves. Sometimes, one unfortunately sees how confrontation in the Majlis, in government organs, or elsewhere creates a general uproar. Thank God our people have truly achieved intellectual and political maturity. All this is a result of the bad propaganda against our revolution abroad. If the people were like those of 50 years ago, the revolution would have failed. For example, Seyyed Jamaluddin Asadabadi came to Iran with great honors and was ousted in disgrace because of propaganda. At that time people were misled, but fortunately the people today — even farmers and workers — understand and analyze political problems. They are attentive and they listen to the Majlis debates on the radio.

Moving on to the great importance Islam attaches to the respect and prestige of Muslims, he pointed out: Occasional revelations and the publication of statements and their distribution here and there are truly not right. None of us is without blemish. The only immaculate ones were the 14. Let us assume that someone has a problem. Has not the imam repeatedly told us to consider how the people feel? Many of these statements distributed by night may be forged. The propagation and distribution of such things concerning any Muslim leads to complete loss of trust in people.

Another point to note is that the newspapers must be more broad-minded and allow the publication of a variety of ideas and thoughts. Of course, there may be a case when someone opposes revolution and Islam entirely and wants to publish Marxist ideas. We do not permit this. But, there may be a case when someone believes in Islam, in the revolution, and in the leader of the revolution, and has something to say on a social, economic, or political problem. Allow what he has to say to be published. Do not be narrow-minded. The press should not have only one specific line. Write correctly; write your views. When someone says that he has a problem, publish this problem. There is nothing to fear. If you are truly brave, publish the view and then write underneath that this person's view is not valid for three reasons, and then list the reasons.

Referring to the imposed war and to the reduction in oil prices, Grand Ayatollah Montazeri called on the press to warn the people against over-consumption and ceremony. He pointed out: At a time when they want to defeat us from abroad, we should resort to passive struggle — the same thing that Gandhi did in India when he and his followers fought Britain. Gandhi told his followers not to wear clothes made of British fabric. We too should increase and use our own products and refrain from luxury items, from excess spending, from too much waste in offices and other places, and to rely on what we have. Under the present conditions if we engage in passive struggle, we should be able to reduce our need for imports as much as possible. This is an important point and the gentlemen of the press can greatly help to make the nation understand this.

Explaining that a direct line should generally be followed in all affairs, Grand Ayatollah Montazeri said: Economy should neither be the extremist capitalism of the West nor the state economy of the East. As I have always believed, distribution should be actually and not only nominally handed over to the people, albeit under government supervision. Direct government intervention creates a number of problems -- one is that it gives rise to the nation's hatred and spite, and another is that talents become stagnant and the government has to increase recruitment to effect its controls.

Another point is that (?the motive is not to increase waste but to achieve development). When a factory is in the hands of the people, it will try to be better than another factory, to produce better products than the other. Thus competition will be created, and competition, supply and demand can solve many problems.

However, if the government imports and hands the product over to the cooperative, the situation will remain as it is. Domestic producers, too, will offer any unsalable product to the people, having no reason to improve it. But if it is in the hands of the people and the people have freedom, production will develop. Of course, under the present conditions of war, bread and similar items cannot be handed over to the people because the government feels that certain elements will create artificial shortages. The government has to subsidize and control staples such as bread, meat, and other such items in times of war. But there are many other things that do not need to be in the hands of the government and of the cooperative. I have always (?maintained this).

Another point is that in order to prevent hoarding, quotas should be respected and, while the needs of people should be considered,

it is wrong for people to create shortages. Indicating that this may discourage some people and make them leave the country, he added: I have said repeatedly that it is in the interest of the country for these people to return. They, too, want this. As a result of our repeated recommendation to the Cabinet on this issue, the prime minister gave an interview. Immediately, the next day, the newspapers wrote that these people [who are abroad] are traitors and criminals. While thanking the prime minister for his proposal, we point out that Iranians who have left should return to their country and participate in the nation's joys and sorrows. You belong to this country. But we will not pardon acts of counterrevolution. The fact that the prime minister attended an interview, as did the interior minister, and hope was held out, the reaction of a newspaper and the comments of some people spoiled everything. Some attention should be given to this problem because it is now advisable for people to return to their country.

In another part of his speech, Grand Ayatollah Montazeri referred to the war and going to the fronts — a point on which [words indistinct] (?should be taken into consideration) and harsh, empty, repetitive, and exciting slogans be avoided, and added: I have repeatedly said that three forces led to our victory: One was the people's faith; another was the unity and coordination of all levels of society; and the third was decisive leadership. These three forces led to our victory. If you want to preserve the revolution, these three forces should be maintained.

The deputy leader spoke about considering the situation of workers and farmers and the creation of opportunities for them, and pointed out that the general subsidy for cities should be decreased and the work force in villages should be helped, so that people will be attracted to the villages and bribery stopped.

IRNA: Further Details

LD260751 Tehran IRNA in English 1750 GMT 25 Jun 86

[Text] Tehran, June 25, IRNA — In a meeting with a group of Iranian pressmen and journalists in Qom Tuesday Ayatollah Montazeri called on them to exploit the print media not as a vehicle for overstating purely personal outlooks but rather as a forum for an open dialogue between the various groups. He said the print media should not seek to dictate any specific outlooks at the cost of totally suppressing the opposing outlooks since narrow thinking is not conducive to a healthy political and social atmosphere.

The ayatollah's guidelines to the print media were widely reported in the Persian dailies in Tehran Wednesday.

The revered Ayatollah who was critical in his remarks of certain prevalent criteria in dealing with adherents of certain political and social outlooks said rather than to ostracize people and personalities because of their unconventionality, the government administrators should be more tolerant of them and instead make a sincere effort to win their hearts. He said rather than promote unwarranted and unhealthy polemics on social, political and other national topics, the print media should make sure to reflect every bona fide outlook so that truth and the soundest of all may eventually prevail.

The ayatollah also criticized crude and untactful behaviour as occasionally observed by few ill-trained members of the committees in dealing with violations of the Islamic ethics in the city streets and warned against creating ill-feeling in potential supporters of the Islamic revolution.

Elsewhere in his speech to the people the ayatollah criticized the idea of entrusting the administration of the national economy solely to the private enterprise as a recipe for solving the economic problems of the Islamic Republic but noted also that supporters of an exclusively government-led economy are equally at fault. He suggested that rather than obstruct the healthy operation of a private enterprise by imposing unnecessary sanctions, the government should formulate regulations for minimizing pure profiteering and for allowing a wider elbow room for the trader whose activity is conducive to a healthy national economy.

He said, however, that based on all past experiences the private enterprise proves to be a better administrator of business than is the government.

Elsewhere in his speech the Ayatollah emphatically recommended a warm welcome home to all Iranians and especially to the educated and the professionals who are in foreign countries and mainly in the United States, principally because they are not sure of the kind of treatment they will get when they come home.

He said in a meeting with his visitors recently he had advised that the government do something to ensure that the educated Iranians come back home and serve the country which idea was subsequently supported by the Prime Minister Musavi, but that on the following day certain papers had described those Iranians as "traitors".

Ayatollah Montazeri also advised government administrators against going to the war fronts when their presence is not really needed in those areas. He intimated that occasionally the "ceremonial" and unwarranted presence in the war fronts by certain government officials has more damaged the operation of a government organization than contributed to the war effort.

Spanish Press Reports Restriction on EEC Envoys

LD260944 Kuwait KUNA in English 0813 GMT 26 Jun 86

[Text] Madrid, June 26 (KUNA) — Iran has restricted the movement of the European Economic Community ambassadors to a radius of 40 kilometers around the capital Tehran, it was reported here Thursday.

Reporting to news today, the Spanish press said the Iranian decision, which went into effect 2 days ago was officially communicated to the ambassadors of the 12 EEC countries.

Though the official Iranian explanation was the state of war the country is living, Spanish sources are quoted by the press as saying the Iranian move was in retaliation for the United States' bombing of the Libyan cities of Tripoli and Banghazi last April 15.

Since relations between Iran and the United States are broken, Tehran is said to be making the allies of Washington pay for the United States aggression on Iran's ally, Libya.

Last May 7, Madrid scrapped the 1967 agreement with Iran which allowed the citizens of both countries to enter each other's territories without prior acquisition of entry visas. No reason was given to the sudden move by Madrid.

It's to be remembered that Iran's ambassador to Spain Hadi Soleymanpur was recalled to Tehran for consultation in the wake of Spain's recognition of the Jewish state on January 17.

Velayati Meets With CSSR Counterpart in Prague

For reportage on the visit to Prague by Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, including his talks with CSSR Foreign Minister Bohuslav Chnoupek, see the Czechoslovakia section of the 26 June East Europe *DAILY REPORT* and subsequent issues.

Finance Minister on Vienna OPEC Fund Meeting

GF250738 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 25 Jun 86

[Text] Our country's minister of economy and finance, who went to Vienna to attend the 10th anniversary celebrations of the founding of the OPEC Fund and also the seventh session of the OPEC Fund's finance ministers, returned home yesterday.

In a talk with our correspondent, the minister spoke of the results of this visit:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Mr [name indistinct], what were the results of your visit to Vienna and what was the stand taken by the Islamic Republic of Iran at the conference?

[Finance minister] The seventh session of the ministers of the members of the OPEC Fund was held in Vienna. One of the positive results achieved by the Islamic Republic of Iran was our proposal that all international financial and funding organizations, including the UN organizations connected with development, should not set up their offices in Jerusalem. If they do, the OPEC Fund should cease to support them. Through our efforts this proposal was approved at the session. It may be noted that the Zionist regime has been trying to make Jerusalem the capital of Israel, but fortunately that has not happened.

Other matters that were discussed [words indistinct] the funding of goods like basic materials, their purchase and storage, and plans for increasing their production and manufacture, which have been delayed for the past 6 years. This fund, which would assist the interests of the (?oil-producing countries) and the producers of basic materials, has been faced with obstacles placed in its way by the U.S. regime, which considers it injurious to the monopolistic and expansionist economic interests of that country. Therefore, the project has not taken off so far. Our proposal in this regard was that another effort be made through talks with other countries to obtain the necessary materiel elsewhere. In this regard the OPEC Fund session favored continuing efforts to establish this particular fund, and this proposal of ours was also accepted.

Along with this session, a seminar on the 10th anniversary of the OPEC Fund was also held. The seminar was attended by the finance ministers of OPEC Fund members and (?representatives) of Austria and other international financial organizations in Vienna. Discussions at the seminar centered on the OPEC Fund's assistance to developing countries and the developed countries' help for developing countries. [end recording]

Envoy to PRC Comments on Economic Relations

LD242129 Tehran IRNA in English 1752 GMT 24 Jun 86

[Text] Beijing, June 24, IRNA — Irano-Chinese joint economic session will be held here soon according to Iran's outgoing ambassador to the Chinese capital 'Ali Khorram Tuesday.

Khorram said also in a meeting with China's minister of foreign economic relations and trade, Mr. Zheng, that Iran-China bilateral relations have expanded in the past four years. "Although commercial cooperation between the two countries is not what it can be, however, it remains at a good level", said Khorram.

Khorram said Iran's Deputy Prime Minister Mr. Mirzadeh is to visit Beijing in a near future at the invitation of a top adviser of the Chinese Government.

The Iranian ambassador also called on the Chinese minister to fully execute bilateral oil agreements concluded between the two countries. He also expressed hope that China would step-up its import of Iranian non-oil commodities.

In response the Chinese minister expressed satisfaction over the growth of bilateral relations including trade cooperation during the past few years. He furthermore assured the Iranian ambassador that he would do his best to ensure that the joint economic session ends a success.

Minister of Public Health Invited To Visit PRC

LD260745 Tehran IRNA in English 0657 GMT 26 Jun 86

[Text] Tehran, June 26, IRNA — Minister of Public Health of the People's Republic of China Cui Yueli extended an invitation to his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Reza Marandi to pay an official visit to China.

The invitation was made in a meeting between the Chinese official and the outgoing Iranian ambassador to China, 'Ali Khorram, in Beijing Wednesday. The Chinese minister also welcomed exchange of visits between medical and research delegations of both the countries.

Referring to the last year visit of Majlis speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani to China, the Chinese health minister said that they held "constructive" talks during the visit. He hoped that other Iranian officials will visit his country.

Meanwhile Khorram informed the Chinese official on the status of medicare services in Iran as well on progress made in the fields of acupuncture and herbal medicine.

Reyshahri Comments on Rajavi 'Expulsion' From France

LD241955 Tehran IRNA in English 1535 GMT 24 Jun 86

[Text] Khorramabad, Lorestan Prov., June 24, IRNA — Minister of Information Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Mohammadi Reyshahri said here Tuesday that the expulsion of the counterrevolutionary Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization (MKO) from France to Iraq serves to further expose MKO's terroristic nature. He noted that the terrorist organization is now on the verge of being destroyed.

Hoj. Reyshahri said that global arogance had been frustrated in its plots to destabilize the Islamic Republic through military coups, Iraqi-imposed war and counterrevolutionary grouplets, and that it was now trying to spread corruption by nurturing the growth of narcotics addiction among the youth.

The information minister also lauded the people for cooperating with his ministry and said that the revolutionary Iranian people regarded the Islamic Revolution as a manifestation of the blood of their matryred sons.

Monafeqin Hideout Discovered in Gilan Province

LD261136 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 26 Jun 86

[Text] The Central News Unit, quoting an Information Ministry public relations office statement, reports:

Thanks to relentless intelligence work by Gilan Province Intelligence Department and the people's cooperation, a secret monafeqin [Mojahedin-e Khalq] group hideout was discovered in a derelict building in the fringes of Astaneh-ye Ashrafiyeh forest. Several of the mercenary agents were killed or arrested during a clash.

On the basis of this report, members of the team received terrorist training in Iraq, and were responsible for the assassination of seven people in Gilan Province. Considerable quantities of arms and ammunition, documents on the group's internal affairs, lists of future assassination targets, and several pornographic magazines were discovered in the hideout.

Dissident Cleric Arrested in Bahrain

GF250722 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0630 GMT 25 Jun 86

[Text] Informed sources in Bahrain have disclosed that a dissident cleric, Hojjat ol-Eslam Shaykh Hasan Qaysi, has recently been arrested in the country.

According to a Central News Unit report, Qaysi was arrested in Sanabis township for his Islamic activities. There is no information about his fate so far.

According to the same report the local government recently arrested another person named 'Abd al-'Aziz Shahabi, the director of the Islamic Center Bookshop, for his alleged revolutionary activities. He has not been released so far.

Senior Kurdish Party Members Captured

LD252342 Tehran IRNA in English 1438 GMT 25 Jun 86

[Text] Bakhtaran, June 25, IRNA — Seven ranking members of the outlawed Kurdish Democratic Party were captured by Iranian Muslim combatants during a four-day fighting that ended Tuesday night in Uramanat and Paveh in Kordestan Province.

During the battle a member of the political office of the outlawed party and a commander for the city of Shahu were killed and a number of others wounded.

Government Employees Must Report to Guards Corps

LD260726 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 25 Jun 86

[Text] A Central News Unit report notes a circular issued by Prime Minister Musavi that all government departments and institutes and ministries are duty-bound to conform with the request of the Guards Corps Commander to assign the personnel required by the Guards Corps.

The circular says: All ministries, government institutes, and companies, Islamic Revolution organizations, banks, insurance companies, nationalized institutes, factories and companies, companies run by the government and those affiliated with government institutes, municipalities and their affiliated institutes, institutes which should be named if included [as heard], and all institutes which in any way use the government's general budget are duty-bound, at all times, to conform with the request of the Guards Corps command. They should be speedily assigned by the corps personnel and persons, who according to the Guards Corps commander are equivalent to commander and acting commander of division, brigade or battalion.

In cases where in accordance with the findings of the war affairs headquarters of the relevant body, the assignment of such personnel creates serious difficulties, the matter should be reported to the deputy prime minister for coordination and supervision of defense affairs, clearly giving the reasons so that an appropriate decision can be made.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq

Communique No 2,512

LD251559 Tehran IRNA in English 1535 GMT 25 Jun 86

[Text] Tehran, June 25, IRNA — Exchange of fire continued throughout the fronts Tuesday raging more heavily in Hajj 'Umran, northwestern front, as a result of which a number of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and several enemy gun emplacements destroyed, said a military communique here Wednesday.

Communique number 2512 released by the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces said Iranian patrol units ambushed Iraqi troops in Hajj 'Umran inflicting casualties and losses on them before returning safely to their bases.

Iranian Gendarmerie fire pounded Iraqi positions and convoys in Zobeydah and Bayat in southern fronts Tuesday killing or wounding a number of Iraqi soldiers and destroying five bunkers and five vehicles, the communique said.

In Halaleh, Iranian Muslim combatants opened artillery and mortar fire on positions and on engineering machinery of Iraqi forces inflicting heavy casualties and losses on them.

The communique said that exchange of fire continued in the southern fronts raging more heavily in Al-Faw, Zayd and Shalacheh as a result of which Iraqi forces sustained heavy casualties and damage and their military operations were halted.

Iraqi troops incurred substantial casualties and losses in the western border fronts Tuesday when their positions, supply routes and heavy batteries were hit by Iranian artillery fire.

Meanwhile Iraq's Banmil oil installations were also shelled by Iranian combatants, according to the communique.

Several houses and shops were damaged in Abadan Tuesday when it was hit by Iraqi artillery fire.